

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR BLUE CRAB COMMERCIAL HARVEST HOURS

Allow commercial crab harvesters to start harvesting crabs one (1) hour earlier than currently allowed on certain days.

SB59 and HB1314 passed during the 2017 legislative session and will be effective July 1, 2017. This legislation requires the Department to adopt regulations to permit commercial harvesters to take crabs using legal gears one hour earlier than current rules permit on Labor Day, Memorial Day and July 4 and day before the those holidays. Pending approval, the dates for 2017 are July 3 and 4, and September 3 and 4. The regulation would also apply to Memorial Day, but not for 2017. The change would apply to all commercial gear.

Additional Information:

Senate Bill 59 http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2017RS/chapters_noln/Ch_401_sb0059E.pdf

House Bill 1314 http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2017RS/chapters_noln/Ch_400_hb1314E.pdf